

Greetings Panther Family,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and this message finds you and your family in good health, recharged and ready to start a new school year! As your new principal, I am so excited to join such an amazing school community. As we go forth into the 2020-2021 school year, we are experiencing extraordinary times and the pandemic has left us all wondering about a new normal, including what school will look like this fall. We are working diligently to ensure a safe opening of the new school year. Our plan includes addressing not only the academic needs of all students, but also the social, emotional and physical safety needs of every student.

I encourage all of you to attend our Back to School Night on Thursday, August 6, 2020 from 4-6 p.m. Our 2020-2021 school year theme will be, "Every Journey has a Story!" I am excited to partner with you, our staff and the Palm River community to create our collective story. This will narrate our hopes and dreams throughout the year and reveal what makes Palm River so uniquely special. The final destination is never as important as the journey itself!

Our first day of school will be on Monday, August 10th. Students may enter the campus as early as 7:10 AM and instruction will begin promptly at 7:40 AM. Breakfast is served daily for all students from 7:10-7:35 AM. Apply online for school meal benefits at [www.sdhc.k12.fl.us](http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us) or search "Go SNS" on your computer, tablet, or phone. You can also call the *Healthy Meals Express Application Center* for assistance at (813) 744-8066 or the *Meal Status/Meal Prepay Hotline* at 1-866-544-5575.

Bus routes and schedules will be released soon. All bus riders are to be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the printed arrival time. Your child's safety is of the utmost concern to us, therefore, please be sure that your child is always well supervised while he or she is at the bus stop. All KG students must have a parent or designated adult at the bus stop every afternoon. If a parent or designated adult is not at the bus stop, your child will be returned to school.

I hope you will join our amazing PTA! Membership is \$5.00 and will be used to supplement student activities throughout year. Our School Advisory Committee (SAC) meets monthly and focuses on school improvement initiatives. If you are interested in serving on the PTA Board or SAC Team, please email me at [kelly.mccluney@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:kelly.mccluney@sdhc.k12.fl.us) on or before August 10th.

The last few months have been challenging for us all, but our staff is ready to welcome our students back to school. We are ready to provide support via the learning platform that is best suited for your child. Planned activities may be subject to change in response to official health and safety directives from the CDC, State of Florida, and our school district. We will be modifying our procedures in response to current information and directives. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding as we work to be responsive to ever-changing situations.

Panthers, I look forward to embarking on this journey with you as we continue to pursue academic excellence. I eagerly look forward to greeting you. It is an honor and privilege to serve as your principal. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (813) 744-8066 if you have questions or need additional information as we approach the beginning of the school year. Together, I know we will make this school year a journey to remember!

Your Very PROUD Principal,  
Ms. McCluney

